



Montana State University Extension Local Government Center

Making a Difference for Montanans in Their Hometowns and Counties

Montana's county and city officials are responsible for:

- more than **\$1 billion in public funds**.
- more than **11,000 employees**.

Many of these public servants have little or no training in roles and responsibilities, human resources, public meeting laws or budgeting and financing.

The Local Government Center (LGC) on the Montana State University campus in Bozeman **provides the only training, technical assistance and research** of its kind for Montana's county and city elected officials and employees.



- The LGC offers more than 100 **affordable professional development workshops** each year.
- Ninety percent of newly-elected county commissioners attend a 40-hour (2-year) certification program and over 70 percent of municipal clerks, treasurers and finance officers receive certification through a 120-hour (3-year) training program.
- More than 7,000 local officials and citizen board members attended one or more LGC workshops in FY11.
- LGC training **prevents costly errors** that could negatively impact counties and municipalities up to millions of dollars.



- The Montana Constitution requires a **Voter Review Process** every 10 years for all local governments; the LGC provides assistance, and is poised to provide assistance to communities for the 2014 review.
- The LGC recently published a Municipal Officials Handbook and a Municipal Clerks, Treasurers and Finance Officers Procedures Manual, the only such resources for the state of Montana.
- The LGC mobilizes statewide resources, key agencies and MSU faculty to provide local governments with **efficient government strategies** and best practices.

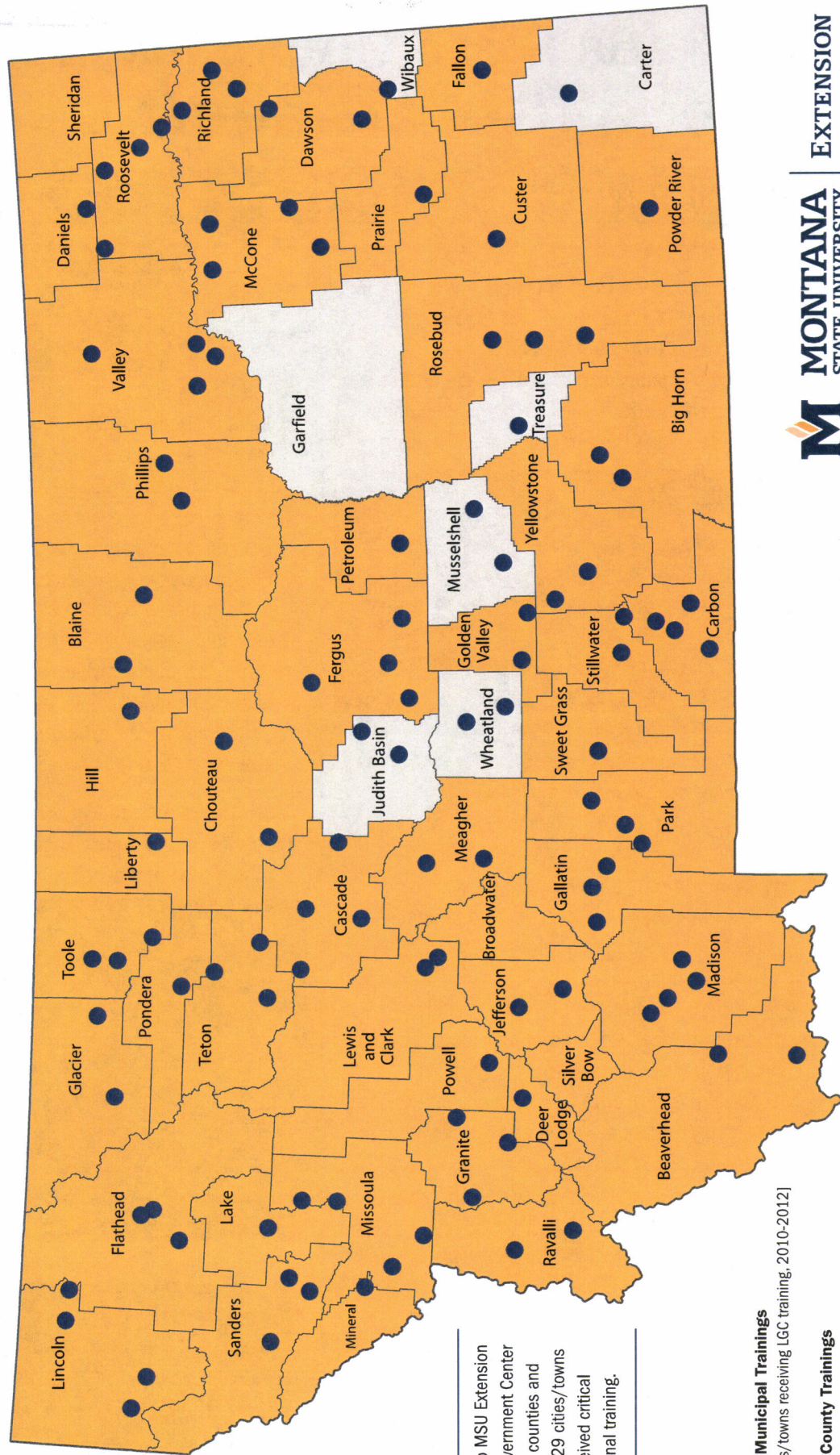
MSU Extension Local Government Center has no Montana general fund base budget funding and is in jeopardy of discontinuation.

With full funding of the Extension budget request and additional funds for the Local Government Center, Schutter Diagnostic Lab and Extension Specialist positions, MSU Extension can continue to work with local communities to educate citizens, provide resources and offer services that positively impact the economic, social and environmental well-being of Montana citizens.



Local Government Center
Culbertson Hall
P.O. Box 170535
Bozeman, MT 59717-0535
(406) 994-6694
www.msulocalgov.org

Making a Difference for Montanans in Their Hometowns and Counties



Thanks to MSU Extension
Local Government Center
49 of 56 counties and
110 of 129 cities/towns
have received critical
professional training.

LGC Municipal Trainings

[Cities/towns receiving LGC training, 2010-2012]

LGC County Trainings

[Counties receiving LGC training, 2010-2012]



Montana State University Extension Schutter Diagnostic Lab

Helping Montanans Preserve their Agricultural and Natural Resources

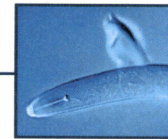
Montana State University and MSU Extension provide identification services for plants, plant diseases, insect infestation, insect damage, abiotic problems, and mushrooms through the Schutter Diagnostic Lab (SDL).

Economic Value

- The SDL is rated as having high economic value to the citizens of Montana and adjoining states.
- The direct **economic impact** of recommendations in 2011 was **\$100 million**. Wheat growers saved the majority through diagnosis and outreach based on stripe rust samples submitted.
- In 2012, education of one field agronomist about stripe rust is estimated to have impacted 48,000 acres with an **economic benefit** to growers of **\$4 million**.
- Wheat streak mosaic virus samples and recommendations during a field visit saved growers in Pondera County **\$540,000** in crop replacement costs and realized yields.

Impacting Local Citizens

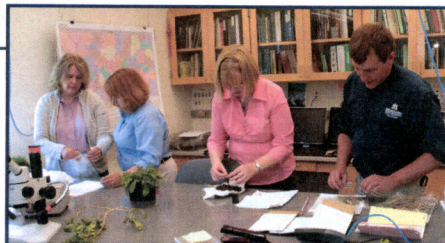
- A spider identified within hours after a child was bitten prevented serious ill effects.
- A group planning to make jam from the fruit of white bryony, which resembles grapes, could have been fatal if not accurately identified.
- Yellow Starthistle confirmations led to actions to eliminate this noxious weed in two counties.
- Data from the 9-state Great Plains wheat virus survey was used to develop a degree day model for wheat viruses to predict disease outbreaks.
- Routinely identify and analyze plants, mushrooms, and moldy and diseased grain for animal and human toxicity.



Education and Outreach

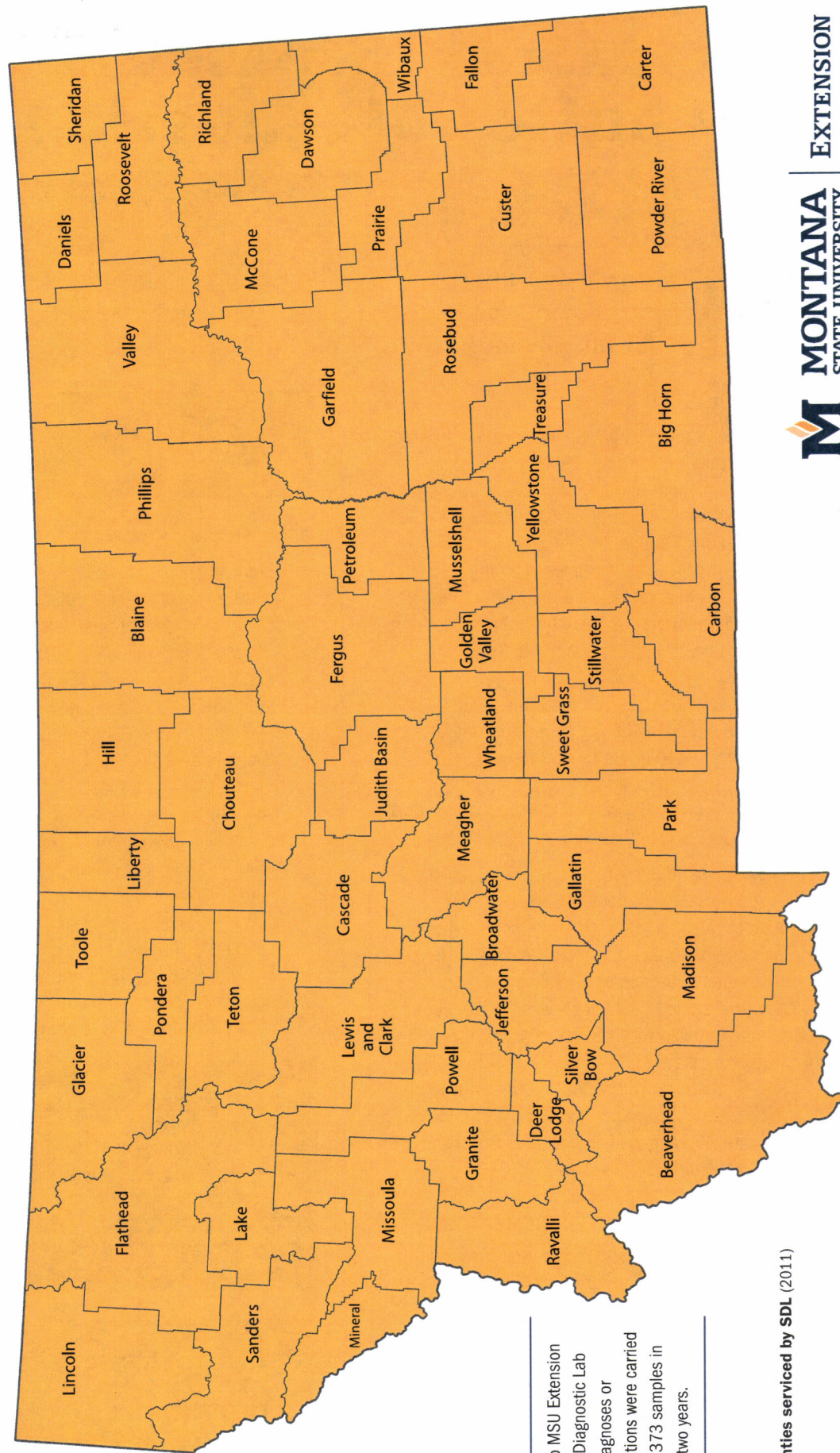
- Agroemergency preparedness education reached **4,500 growers** directly and 170,000 indirectly through television appearances on Montana Ag Live (Montana PBS) during 2011.
- In 2011, diagnosticians reached an audience of more than 54,000 with diagnostic and IPM-related presentations and publications.
- A webinar series for the Great Plains Diagnostic Network featured topics such as **Spotted Wing Drosophila, Zebra Chip**, bed bugs, and methods for teaching adult learners (www.gpdn.org).
- Authoritativeness of county agents with their clients was increased by providing accurate identifications and management recommendations.
- SDL was instrumental in early detection and rapid response to herbicide resistant weeds including wild oat and kochia

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Schutter Diagnostic Lab
Montana State University
P.O. Box 173150
Bozeman, MT 59717-3150
Tel: (406) 994-5150
E-mail: diagnostics@montana.edu

Helping Montanans Preserve their Agricultural and Natural Resources



Thanks to MSU Extension Schutter Diagnostic Lab 4,115 diagnoses or identifications were carried out on 3,373 samples in the past two years.

Counties serviced by SDL (2011)



MONTANA
STATE UNIVERSITY

EXTENSION